

attacks, hundreds of foreigners have been rounded up though not charged with any terrorism-related crime.

Yet at the same time, "hundreds, if not thousands, of foreign nationals who have been plausibly accused of the most heinous human rights crimes, including torture and assassination, either have lived or still live freely in the U.S." [William Schulz, "The Torturers Among Us," *New York Review*, p. 22, April 25, 2002.]

This bill would not only add the new grounds, but also expand current grounds, for inadmissibility and deportation, by barring those aliens who have engaged, outside the United States, in "torture" and "extrajudicial killing" and removing artificial limitations on the current grounds for exclusion for aliens who commit "genocide" and "particularly severe violations of religious freedom." This bill is important for the victims of these heinous crimes who seek refuge in this country and important for Americans to show that we will not tolerate perpetrators of genocide, extrajudicial killing and torture, living among us.

I urge the Republican Members who have blocked passage of this bill to come forward and identify themselves, to share any concerns they may have so that we may proceed without further delay.

I was pleased when the Senate did take up and pass the Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act of 2002 that I sponsored with Senators CAMPBELL, SCHUMER, CLINTON, and BIDEN.

Named for Chaplain Mychal Judge, who was killed while responding with the New York City Fire Department to the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, this legislation recognizes the invaluable service of police and fire chaplains in crisis situations by allowing for their eligibility in the Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program. Father Judge, while deemed eligible for public safety officer benefits, was survived by his two sisters who, under current law, are ineligible to receive payments through the PSOB Program. This is simply wrong and must be remedied.

Indeed, Father Judge is among 10 public safety officers who were killed on September 11, but who are ineligible for Federal death benefits because they died without spouses, children, or parents. This bill would retroactively correct this injustice by expanding the list of those who may receive public safety officer benefits to the beneficiaries named on the most recently executed life insurance policy of the deceased officer. This change would go into effect on September 11 of last year to make sure the families of Father Judge and the nine other fallen heroes receive their public safety officer benefits.

In addition, this bill would retroactively restructure the Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program to specifically include chaplains as members of the law enforcement and fire units

they serve, and would make these chaplains eligible for the one-time \$250,000 benefit available to public safety officers who have been permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty, or to the survivors of officers who have died.

This measure is strongly supported by the National Association of Police Organization, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Despite its Senate's passage and in spite of the fact that the House Judiciary Committee has favorably reported the House companion bill with bipartisan support to the House, the House Republican leadership has refused to follow through with passage of these measure. I urge the House Republican leadership to reconsider its decision and allow this important matter to proceed to final passage.

These bills are not alone in being blocked by anonymous Republican holds. Holds have been placed on other important bills that the Judiciary Committee has acted upon and reported favorably to the Senate. Let me just cite a couple examples: S. 2010, the Corporate and Criminal Fraud Accountability Act, which I introduced after the Enron debacle to restore confidence in our securities; S. 2179, the Law Enforcement Tribute Act, which was introduced by Senator CARNAHAN to help State and local police pay for memorials to honor fallen officers; and S. 407, the Madrid Protocol Implementation Act, to help American businesses better protect their intellectual property in the international marketplace.

In addition to the Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers Benefit Act, many other Senate-passed are languishing in the House of Representatives. These include the Federal Judiciary Protection Act, S. 1099, which I cosponsored with Senator GORDON SMITH; the James Guelff and Chris McCurley Body Armor Act, S. 166, which was sponsored by Senator FEINSTEIN; and the TEACH Act, S. 487, which I sponsored with Senator HATCH. These bipartisan measures were passed by unanimous consent through the Senate last year, but have been held hostage without action in the House for too many months.

None of these 10 matters should be partisan, yet again and again, anonymous Republican holds have stopped Senate and congressional action. I appeal to my Republican colleagues in the Senate to lift their secret holds and to the Republicans in both Houses to stop obstructing these bipartisan bills, that are intended to protect our national security, our public safety, America's borders, and American businesses.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### ENTREPRENEURS OF THE YEAR

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Melissa Mabon and Brooke Savage, two of New Hampshire's Entrepreneurs of the Year. It is doubtless that their success is a tribute to their hard work and dedication.

As cofounders of Pragmatech Software Inc. in Amherst, Brooke and Melissa have built a company from conception into what it is today. Their business knowledge and planning have led them to build a company with no outside investment giving them greater flexibility with respect to management decisions. Pragmatech, which was founded in 1994, offers several services including an expert knowledge base that supports automated responses to "requests for proposals" and "form-based proposals." They also feature programs that assemble proposals, provide point-by-point responses to specifications, publish on the Web, and gauge the effectiveness of proposals, just to name a few.

It is my great pleasure and honor to represent Brooke and Melissa in the United States Senate and wish them all the best in future endeavors.●

### TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Kentucky Rural Health Association. The Kentucky Rural Health Association recently held its annual conference in Frankfort, and I would like to take a few minutes today to voice my support for this organization. The Association is helping to shape and implement changes to improve the health of rural Kentuckians.

Since 1999, the Kentucky Rural Health Association has worked to create an equitable and effective health care environment, in terms of access and distribution, for rural Kentuckians. Their efforts in educating the public, empowering the people, and positively influencing government policy and legislation have been extremely beneficial to individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth.

While I regret that I was unable to attend their conference this year, I commend all the members of the association for safeguarding Kentucky's right to affordable and accessible health care. Adequate healthcare is critical to improving an individual's quality of life, and I urge them to continue their hard work on behalf of rural Kentuckians.●

### COMMENDING STUDENTS FROM MASSABESIC HIGH SCHOOL

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding group of